MODIS Technical Team Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2004
Building 33, Room E125

Vince Salomonson chaired the meeting. In attendance were Chris Justice, Shaida Johnston, Jack Xiong, Steve Kempler, Robert Wolfe, Dorothy Hall, and Barbara Conboy, with Yolanda Harvey taking the minutes.

1.0 Upcoming Events

- AIAA Space 2004 Conference and Exhibit, San Diego, California, September 28-30 2004. http://www.aiaa.org/
- The 12th Australasian Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Conference, Fremantle, Western Australia 18-22 October 2004. http://www.rss.dola.wa.gov.au/12arspc/
- Snow and Ice User Workshop, SSAI offices, Aerospace Building, Lanham MD. November 16-17, 2004.

2.0 Meeting Minutes

2.1 General Discussion

Salomonson mentioned that he didn't get to meet with Paula Bontempi, the MODIS Program Scientist now, as planned to discuss overall MODIS efforts. He mentioned to Justice that she would likely be visiting Justice and Michael King soon. Justice said that he needs to find out when this will occur, though he was looking forward to it. Salomonson asked about some metrics that Diane Wickland is trying to gather, and Justice replied that she's looking for data on scientific achievements, so we would do well to summarize some papers and put together a Power Point presentation for her.

Salomonson asked about the status of MODIS grants, but Conboy didn't have any news.

2.2 Instrument Status

Xiong reported that instrument operations on both satellites are normal. Salomonson asked about the Solid-State Recorder (SSR), and Johnston replied that, a couple of weeks ago, another superset dropped off the SSR, but affected MISR instead of MODIS. The current discussion is revolving around how many supersets can be lost before we have to do a power recycling. We have to decide if we want to do the recycling now, or wait until we absolutely need to do it (while still doing the analysis now). At this point, MODIS hasn't been affected, but we need to consider what we'd do if two more supersets were lost. In that scenario, one alternative would be to change the day-night ratio, which would in turn affect the data pool by causing us to lose some of the reflective bands in the Polar Regions. Salomonson asked what our reasons are for not recycling, and Johnston said that there's no solid reason not to, though we still want to determine the risk we'd be taking with aging components. Salomonson asked if there are any big experiments going on that would be affected by a restoration of the Solid State Recorder (SSR). Justice said no, no one in Land would be affected that he knew of. Salomonson said that they should go ahead, then, as soon as it gets organized.

2.3 DAAC
Kempler reported that the DAAC experienced some unplanned downtime (5 hours). The GES DAAC distributed over 100 thousand granules, as would be expected in the upward trend of data access. Processing goes smoothly at 1x.

Kempler mentioned as a result of NOAA algorithm changes, data acquired from NOAA gave erroneous results when applied to MODIS processing. Salomonson noted that NCEP made a change to the format of their Sea-ice product but we did not receive a notification. Johnston said that we should bring it up with them.

Wolfe said that the problem only affected the night-mode granules – it caused cloud mask to incorrectly identify all land surfaces as ice and consequently falsely detect much more cloud cover over land at night. All of the downstream atmosphere products were affected as was the Land surface temperature product, which uses both day-mode and night-mode data.

Kempler reported that the DAAC has implemented software to visually QA (not science QA) the Cloud Mask product. Wolfe noted that the DAAC could help by doing QA to detect anomalies in ancillary data used by MODIS, which would be useful in catching these types of errors sooner.

Salomonson asked Johnston if she has gotten a response back on L1A data from Martha Maiden. Johnston said yes. What will happen is that we will keep a rolling six months of storage until we come up with a processing-on-demand plan, after which won't need to keep the L1A data at all.

2.4 SDST
Wolfe reported that the software change to handle the NCEP/Sea_Ice format change is being delivered by the Atmosphere team and is expected to be in operations next week. The recovery plan will take about three weeks to complete and includes reprocessing all of the atmosphere products (including cloud mask) and Land Surface Temperature. The reprocessing capacity at the DAACs and MODAPS will be used to help recover from the problem as quickly as possible.

2.5 Land
Wolfe reported that the MODIS Land group's Vegetation Workshop II organized by Steve Running went really well. One hundred fifty or more people attended the workshop in Missoula, Montana, 60 posters were presented, and close to 30 users stayed for a Friday morning training session on accessing and using MODIS data. This was the same type of workshop held two years ago, though this time we had a lot more users attend who had posters with results from using MODIS data. The Science Team members and others gave the best presentations we've ever seen; they were of very high quality. Justice noted that Steve Running is writing an Earth Observer article about the workshop for the next issue.

2.6 Cryosphere
Hall reported that planning for the November Snow and Ice User Workshop is going really well.

3.0 Action Items

3.1 New Action Items
No new action items.

3.2 Old Action Items
3.2.1 Tech Team to further discuss TRW using MODIS data for validation of the NPP/NPOESS production process.
Status: Open.

3.2.2 Johnston to determine what data should be going into the DAAC.
Status: Open.
Johnston reported being at the beginning stages of laying out details for Collection 5, and is trying to identify the right levels for the Science Team in terms of data archiving.